AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 (*Cancelled*)

Claim 20. (*Currently amended*) A solid fabric softening component comprising

    (a) a clay;

    (b) at least 5% of a surfactant system;

    (c) at least 15% by weight of a solid carrier material; and

    (d) a flocculating agent <u>selected from the group consisting of alum and lime</u>.

Claim 21. (*Currently amended*) A component according to claim 20 whereby the clay and flocculating <u>agent</u> are in an intimate mixture with one another.

Claim 22. (*Previously presented*) A component according to claim 20 whereby the clay, flocculating agent, surfactant system and carrier material are in an intimate mixture with one another.

Claim 23. (*Previously presented*) A component according to claim 20 wherein the carrier material comprises an aluminosilicate builder and a phosphate salt builder, which is present at a level of from 15% to 60% by weight of the component.

Claim 24. (*Previously presented*) A component according to claim 20 wherein the carrier material comprises an inorganic carbonate salt which is present at a level of from 10% to 60% by weight of the component.

Claim 25. (*Previously presented*) A component according to claim 20 wherein the surfactant system is present at a level of from 10% to 70% by weight and comprises at least an anionic sulphonate surfactant or an anionic sulphate surfactant.

Claim 26. (*Previously presented*) A component according to claim 20 wherein the surfactant system comprises a nonionic surfactant, comprising at least one alkoxylated alcohol surfactant.

Claim 27. (*Cancelled*)

Claim 28. (*Previously presented*) A composition according to claim 20 wherein the clay is present at a level of from 5% to 60% by weight, and comprises a smectite clay.

Claim 29. (*Previously presented*) A component according to claim 20 comprising at least 0.1% by weight of a brightener.

Claim 30. (*Previously presented*) A component according to claim 20 in a form selected from the group consisting of a spray-dried particle, agglomerate, extrudate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 31. (*Previously presented*) A component according to claim 20 comprising at least 5% by weight of water.

Claim 32. (*Previously presented*) A component according to claim 20 comprising a fabric care agent selected from the group consisting of soil release polymers, cellulosic polymers, dye transfer inhibitors, cationic softeners, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 33. (*Currently amended*) A component according to claim 20 comprising a carbonate salt and a water-swellable disintegrant or an acidic compound capable of reacting with a carbonate to produce effervescence, preferably being a carboxylic acid [[,]] ~~or mixtures thereof~~.

Claim 34. (*Previously presented*) A component according to claim 20 comprising a mixture of clays.

Claim 35. (*Previously presented*) A process for making a component according to claim 20 comprising the steps of first mixing the clay and the flocculating agent to form an intimate mixture and subsequently mixing the intimate mixture with the surfactant system and the carrier material.

Claim 36. (*Previously presented*) A process for making a component according to claim 22 comprising the steps of first mixing the flocculating agent, the surfactant system or part thereof and the carrier material or part thereof to form an intimate mixture and subsequently mixing the intimate mixture with the clay and optionally the remaining part of the surfactant system and the remaining part of the carrier material.

Claim 37. (*Previously presented*) A detergent composition comprising the component of claim

20, being in a form selected from the group consisting of tablets, bars and granular compositions.